

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /120 W
----- 013090

R 051134Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1248

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN-PORTUGUESE FISHING TALKS

REF: (A) OSLO 0814, (B) OSLO 1040, (C) OSLO 405 (NOTAL),
(D) 75 OSLO 2396

BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE PORTUGAL'S SMALL CATCH AND
ITS LIMITED HISTORY OF FISHING OFF NORWAY, NORWAY
HAS AGREED TO KEEP THE PORTUGUESE INFORMED ABOUT FISHING
DEVELOPMENTS AND HAS, THEREFORE, SENT A DELEGATION
TO LISBON ON FEBRUARY 19 AND 20. ALTHOUGH NORWAY
DID NOT OFFER PORTUGAL ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS WITHIN
ITS FUTURE EXPANDED FISHING LIMITS, IT MAY AGREE
TO TRANSITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PORTUGAL IN THE OUTER
150 MILES OF ITS PROPOSED 200-MILE FISHING ZONE.

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THESE RIGHTS, HOWEVER, WILL BE LESS EXTENSIVE THAN
RIGHTS GRANTED LONG STANDING FISHING NATIONS IN

NORWEGIAN WATERS. PORTUGAL ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHING SECTOR. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A FELLOW MEMBER OF EFTA, A FREQUENT ADVOCATE OF THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF PORTUGAL UNDER THE PREVIOUS REGIME, AND A NATION SHARING COMMON PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING FISHING AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, NORWAY WANTS TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITH PORTUGAL. ADDITIONALLY THE GOVERNING LABOR PARTY HAS SPECIAL TIES WITH THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY.

2. DESPITE PORTUGAL'S LIMITED CATH OF 10,600 METRIC TONS IN 1975 AND ITS LIMITED HISTORY OF FISHING OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST (SINCE 1974) IT HAS REQUESTED THAT NORWAY KEEP IT INFORMED ON NORWEGIAN FISHING POLICY (SEE REFTEL C). THEREFORE, NORWAY SENT A DELEGATION TO LISBON ON FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 TO DISCUSS COMMON FISHING QUESTIONS.

3. THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY HELGE VINDENES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ARNE TREHOLT, PERSONAL SECRETARY TO LOS MINISTER JENS EVENSEN. DR. MARIO RUINO, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE PORTUGUESE FISHING DIRECTORATE, HEADED THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION.

4. VINDENES OUTLINED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS TO EMBOFFS. HE STATED THAT THE TALKS WERE VERY GENERAL AND LOW KEY. THE DELEGATIONS COVERED THREE MAIN TOPICS: NORWEGIAN POLICY ON FISHING LIMITS, PORTUGUESE FISHING SITUATION, AND LOS QUESTIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO VINDENES, NORWAY DID NOT AND COULD NOT OFFER PORTUGAL ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS WITHIN ITS FISHING LIMITS WHICH IT PLANS ON EXPANDING TO 200 MILES NORTH OF THE 62 DEGREES PARALLEL BY EARLY 1977 IF NO SOLUTION IS REACHED DURING THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS. VENENES STATED THAT NORWAY MUST BASE ITS FISHING POLICY ON CONSISTENT OBJECTIVE CRITERIA. HE SAID PORTUGAL UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THE NORWEGIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION, ALTHOUGH THEY NATURALLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SPECIAL RIGHTS WITHIN THE NORWEGIAN FISHING LIMITS.

6. VINDENES VENTURED A PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO TRANSITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PORTUGAL IN THE OUT 150 MILES OFF THE EXPANDED ZONE. THESE RIGHTS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE LESS EXTENSIVE THAN ANY RIGHTS GRANTED TO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH NORWAY HAS RECIPROCAL FISHING INTERESTS, E.G., THE UK AND USSR, AND NATIONS WHICH HAVE FISHED IN NORWEGIAN

WATERS NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL FOR SOME TIME (I.E., POLAND, EAST GERMANY, FRANCE, AND WEST GERMANY). PORTUGAL DOES MOST OF ITS FISHING NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL, THE AREA OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR NORWAY AND THE FOCUS OF FUTURE NORWEGIAN LOS NEGOTIATIONS (SEE REFTEL C).

7. THE DELEGATIONS ALSO DISCUSSED PRESENT NORWEGIAN AID EFFORTS IN THE FISHING SECTOR IN PORTUGAL (REF-TEL D). THIS ASSISTANCE IS AIMED AT ENABLING PORTUGAL TO UTILIZE THE FISHING RESOURCES OFF ITS OWN COAST. VINDENES SAID THE PORTUGUESE WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH NORWEGIAN AID IN THIS SECTOR.

8. COMMENT: GIVEN THE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD WITH NATIONS WITH A LONG STANDING HISTORY OF FISHING OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST, AND ITS OFT-STATED POLICY OF BASING FISHING NEGOTIATIONS ON CONSISTENT OBJECTIVE CRITERIA, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME FOR NORWAY TO OFFER PORTUGAL SPECIAL TREATMENT IN ITS PROPOSED EXPANDED FISHING ZONE. ALTHOUGH NORWAY COULD NOT PRESENT ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO PORTUGAL AT THIS DELICATE STAGE OF LOS NEGOTIATIONS THE FACT THAT NORWAY SENT A RELATIVELY HIGH POWERED DELEGATION TO LISBON INDICATES THAT NORWAY WANTS TO APPEAR AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITH PORTUGAL. AFTER NORWAY HAS CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH ITS TRADITIONAL FISHING PARTNERS THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL THEN OFFER PORTUGAL LIMITED TRANSITIONAL RIGHTS WITHIN THE OUTER 150 MILES OF ITS PROPOSED 200-MILE FISHING ZONE.

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